

-- PRIORITY CLAIM

8/ This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/DE99/02602, filed on August 19, 1999. Priority is claimed on that application and on the following application:

Country: Germany, Application No.: 198 43 519.3, Filed: September 23, 1998. --

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

CS 2. A valve solenoid comprising: a housing having a first part and a second part and which can be employed in areas endangered by explosion; a coil; an iron circuit, the coil and the iron circuit being arranged in the housing; and a casting compound introduced into the first part of the housing so as to embed the coil and the iron circuit so that the casting compound prevents an explosive atmosphere from reaching live parts and simultaneously fixes the coil and iron circuitry and provides electrical insulation, the coil having connecting elements arranged internally in the second housing part which is configured to resist explosion pressure in case of an internal explosion and prevents transmission of the explosion to the environment thereby providing explosion pressure-resistant encapsulation of the connecting elements.